

In the Specification:

In the Abstract:

Please delete the abstract as filed, and replace with the following:

For visualizing a limited part of a 3D medical image-point-related data set, Selectively, a geometrically selected part of the data set is suppressed and an image rendered based on any non-suppressed part of the data set. The selected geometrically selected part includes a first selection containing all points associated to a nearer region with respect to a first clipping plane, and all points associated to a farther region with respect to a second clipping plane, respectively. The image rendered thereby is based on an intermediate region between the first clipping plane and the second clipping plane.

At page 1, between lines 1 and 2, please enter the following left-centered heading:
-- Field of the Invention --;

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At page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 2 as follows:

The invention relates to a method for visualizing a limited part of a 3D medical image-point-related data set ~~as recited in the preamble of Claim 1~~. Various different technologies for, in a broadly medical environment, generating a digital 3D imaging data set have been in use, such as 3D-CT, 3D-MRI, 3D-Ultrasound, 3D-Rotational Angio, 3D rotational Xray, and others. The medical environment includes without limitation the use of such visualizing for therapy planning, exploration, teaching, or veterinary, generally as applied to various tissue types that are relevant for living matter. Prior art has proposed to apply a single clipping plane and to ignore all points lying on one side of the clipping plane. The present inventors have recognized further advantages that may be attained by applying *two* clipping planes and by subsequently considering only the region *between* the two planes. In particular, such “thick-slab” method would allow a felicitous trade-off between on the one hand single-side clipping that keeps too much information for rendering, and on the other hand the usage of only information that would substantially be restricted to a single plane. The latter procedure would in fact provide only two-dimensional information. The inventors have further recognized that the viewing of the above thick slab would further allow the use of a stereoscopic viewing arrangement to provide a user person with even more pregnant information on the spatial details of the object under consideration.

At page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 20 as follows:

In consequence, amongst other things, it is an object of the invention to retain information regarding an imaged region that is essentially three-dimensional, but to keep both information regarding a nearer region with respect to a first clipping plane and also information regarding a farther region with respect to a second clipping plane out of consideration, whilst

retaining information of an intermediate region. ~~Now therefore, according to one of its aspects the invention is characterized according to the characterizing part of Claim 1.~~

At page 4, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 12 as follows:

By itself, the use of clipping has been recited by Huseyin Kemal, in “TV0R: Interactive and Intuitive Volume Rendering of 3D-Medical Data with 3D-Texturing Mapping Technique”; <http://iregtl.iai.fzk.de/VRTRAIN/diplomarbeit.htm>. Here, three mutually perpendicular clipping planes are used, but the present inventors have experienced that limiting the imaged region to an intermediate region between first and second clipping planes is much more useful in the present operating context than the Kemal technique.